

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00730 151518Z

63

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01

INT-05 FEA-01 NEA-09 A-01 CPR-01 /118 W

----- 036410

R 151230Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6429

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DAVIS, NATHANIEL), PFOR, XA, GB

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS: MEETING WITH
BONGO.

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT BONGO MET WITH AND HOSTED DINNER
FOR DAVIS MAY 14. PRESIDENT STRESSED HIS DESIRE FOR
U.S. INVESTMENT AND OTHER U.S. INTEREST IN GABON,
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR PAST ASSISTANCE AND PRESENT
INVOLVEMENT. HE ALSO REPEATED HIS DESIRE TO MAKE
OFFICIAL VISIT TO U.S. AND TALKED ABOUT UPCOMING VISIT
TO ROMANIA, NORTH KOREA, PRC, ETC. END SUMMARY.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS AND AMBASSADOR MADE CALL
ON GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO, FOLLOWED BY DINNER HOSTED
BY PRESIDENT MAY 14 AT HIS LIBREVILLE RESIDENCE FEW
HOURS BEFORE BONGO DEPARTED FOR PARIS TO BE PRESENT AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIBREV 00730 151518Z

OPERATION OF MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY.

3. BONGO'S MAJOR POINT WAS THAT HE CONSIDERED U.S. A FRIEND BASED ON PAST PERFORMANCE AND THAT HE WISHED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN HIS COUNTRY TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE, FOR REASONS OF QUALITY OF U.S. WORK AS WELL AS FOR DIVERSIFICATION FROM GABON'S RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCE. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT OF GABON, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY TRANSGABON RAILROAD, SALE OF AIRCRAFT, EFFORTS OF U.S. COMPANIES, INCLUDING BETHLEHEM STEEL, GULF, AND UNION CARBIDE, AND U.S. ENGINEERING FOR SANTA CLARA MINERAL PORT.

4. HE STATED THAT AMERICAN INVESTMENT FITTED WELL INTO HIS COUNTRY'S POLICY OF QUOTE ECONOMIC LIBERALISM UNQUOTE AND THAT U.S. COMPANIES COULD BE SURE OF CONTINUED POLITICAL STABILITY WITH ASSURANCES OF RIGHT TO TAKE PROFITS, FREE OF NATIONALIZATION. HE URGED U.S. INVESTORS TO NOW LOOK AT POSSIBILITIES OF SMALL INDUSTRIES FOR GABON. AT SAME TIME, HE AFFIRMED OPENNESS OF GABONESE ECONOMY TO ALL FOREIGN INVESTORS. (QUOTE MONEY HAS NO SMELL UNQUOTE).

5. BONGO CHARACTERIZED U.S.-GABONESE RELATIONS SINCE HE BECAME PRESIDENT AS EXCELLENT, EXPRESSING HIGHEST PRAISE FOR AMBASSADOR MCKESSON, SOON DEPARTING. HE RECALLED THAT U.S. WAS FIRST NATION AFTER FRANCE TO OPEN EMBASSY IN LIBREVILLE AT INDEPENDENCE, THAT GOG HAD NEVER HAD TO ARREST AN AMERICAN CITIZEN (IN CONTRADISTINCTION TO ARRESTS OF FRENCH CITIZENS), AND PRAISED ATTRACTIVE TERMS OFFERED BY U.S. LENDERS.

6. RECALLING FONDLY HIS PREVIOUS PRIVATE VISITS TO U.S., HE THEN TURNED TO TOPIC OF POSSIBLE OFFICIAL VISIT TO U.S. HE SAID HIS SCHEDULE IN COMING MONTHS INCLUDED OFFICIAL VISITS TO ROMANIA, NORTH KOREA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND SOUTH KOREA AND THAT HE HAD INVITATIONS FROM IRAN, QATAR, KUWAIT, AND BAHREIN. HE MENTIONED PAST SERVICES TO U.S., INCLUDING INTERMEDIARY ROLE WITH CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) OVER POSSIBLE RESTORATION OF NORMAL U.S.-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIBREV 00730 151518Z

CONGO RELATIONS. HE DWELT ON JOYS OF DISNEYLAND, WHERE ONE COULD FORGET PRESIDENCY AND BE QUOTE SANS SOUCI UNQUOTE. IN RESPONSE, DAVIS STATED HE WOULD BEAR IN MIND BONGO'S DESIRE FOR OFFICIAL VISIT, NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S RECENT VISIT WAS NOT OFFICIAL, THAT OFFICIAL VISITS WERE VERY DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE, AND THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S SCHEDULE WAS ESSENTIALLY FULL FOR REST OF THIS YEAR AT LEAST.

7. BONGO CLOSED MEETING ON UPBEAT NOTE BY SAYING HE LIKED AMERICANS BECAUSE THEY TALKED STRAIGHT. INQUIRING OF AMBASSADOR STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOG AND FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK OF N.Y. (FNCB) REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF BRANCH IN LIBREVILLE AND LEARNING THAT PAPERWORK HAD NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED, HE FIRED ORDER TO ONE OF HIS AIDES TO TELL FINANCE MINISTER THAT PRESIDENT HAD ALREADY AGREED AND TO DISPENSE WITH QUOTE COLONIAL BUREAUCRACY UNQUOTE.

MCKESSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIBREV00730
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750171-0859
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750550/aaaabsqs.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS: MEETING WITH BONGO.
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, XA, GB, (DAVIS, NATHANIEL), (BONGO, ALBERT BERNARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006